

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Every human being must have hope, because the people who have the expectation is the person who has everything. Humans are without hope, meaning the dead man in life. Truly man is the engine of hope. Only those who have hope that will survive the test of mild or severe. It is a simple fact of life that even the best laid plans can go astray. Whatever talent or skill you may have, hope is a state of mind that helps you navigates the twists and turns of life, and make you move forward when times are tough. Moreover, as we shall see, hope is not just a feeling of happiness. It is a human survival mechanism, and we cannot thrive without it. Snyder, (2002: 249)"While investigating the phenomenon of excuse making by individuals when they failed to perform well", although people have a reason for not doing well they also expressed a desire to set goals that are positive. Many expectations were not in line with what we think. There are times when hope is lost and endless regret. What if someone would hope come true spirit of living, if expectations are not met then he will become lazy. According to Snyder (2002: 249)" is that hope is comprised of not only emotion, but thinking as well". Sure there are obstacles and problems that will arise.

Talk about hope, there is a novel which tells about hope. *The Age of Innocence* is a novel that tells about real young a man named Newland Archer who have hope in desire married upper class couple's impending marriage and the introduction of a woman plagued by scandal whose presence threatens their happiness. Sure there are obstacles and problems that will arise. Newland Archer in his life to get a lot of problems. When he hesitated in his marriage, but marriage is in sight and it happens because finding someone else who was more than he loved his potential partner. "Within positive psychology hope is identified as an activating force that enables people, even when

faced with the most overwhelming obstacles, to envision a promising future and to set and pursue goals" Seligman, (2002: 8).

Newland Archer becomes a victim of his own feelings. Because he did not get justice for what he wants. He also confronted with a choice he did not want.

*The Age of Innocence* novel is written by Edith Wharton. It is appeared in 1920. This novel wedding scandal raised in New York. Assumption of New York people at that time living apart is acceptable but not with the divorce. This novel is very interesting read for questioning the moral assumptions that exist at that time, and reveal the social life.

Edith Wharton, one of the leading American novelists of the 1900s and 1910s, was born Edith Jones to wealthy and conservative parents who were part of New York City's high society. Wharton had the best that money could buy. She was privately tutored, traveled to Europe, and married at the age of twenty-three in 1885 to a member of her family's set, Edward Wharton. However, Wharton disliked playing the role of society matron and hostess in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island, a wealthy summer resort area. A few years into her marriage, she suffered a nervous breakdown. Her doctor suggested that Wharton, who had written and had poems published as a child, should take up writing again as a cure for her nerves (Wharton, 1920).

In 1920 Wharton published what would become her best-known novel, *The Age of Innocence*. Set in the old New York City of her youth, the novel explored the European roots of traditional New York City society. Written as the world of civilized manners was giving way to the parties and gin fizzes of the Jazz Age, *The Age of Innocence* faithfully recounted the social rituals of a class now dead and buried, its attendance at the opera, its formal dinners, betrothal visits, and summers in Newport. The innocence Wharton recalled in her novel was as much about the sexual propriety and financial rectitude of her parents' age as it was about their aversion to the uglier side of life. (Wharton, 1920)

Wharton won a Pulitzer Prize for the book in 1920. Wharton continued her energetic writing schedule, and by 1925 was considered the grande dame of American

letters. She had received an honorary doctorate from Yale University and was consistently named as one of the "twelve greatest women in America." Few reviewers gave her negative reviews, but a handful complained that Wharton had nothing new to say. Between 1925 and her death in 1937 Wharton wrote one book of essays on the craft of fiction, five novels, five volumes of short stories, a volume of poems, and her memories. (Wharton, 1920)

The story of *The Age of Innocence* novel is about the story of a man named Newland Archer. He is a typical young man who is frustrated and angst-ridden and wonders if there might be more to life than what he sees. He is a product of the social world of old New York, and it is in this milieu that he is most comfortable. He fully understands and upholds the rules of etiquette and the essential artifice that make up his social reality. At the same time, he feels stifled by New York society's strict conventions that dictate behavior and decision-making. There is no room for individuality or trying new things. The society is so narrow that its members do not welcome intellectuals, artists, or writers, as they may bring with them disturbing new ideas and opinions. And money alone is not enough to win entrance. Newly minted millionaire Julius Beaufort is allowed into the circle only because he marries a woman who comes from a respectable family. His position in New York is cemented because he and his wife have the only house with a private ballroom, which makes them socially significant. While Newland fancies himself well-educated and a "man of the world," he cannot shake the feeling that there is a reality beyond the bounds of this insular community. (Wharton, 1920)

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Countess Ellen Olenska and May Welland represent the conflicting forces in Newland's psyche. May is demure and proper, the golden daughter of old New York; Ellen is mysterious and scandalous. May is described in chapter 21 as "one of the handsomest and most popular young married women in New York" and "one of the sweetest-tempered and most reasonable of wives." On the other hand, Ellen's

experiences in Europe with the Polish count exemplify what Newland imagines he is missing in life. His neat, absolute categorizing of May and Ellen is evident in the flowers he sends them. Every day, he sends May a box of lilies-of-the-valley, which are pure white and signify innocence. In contrast, he sends brilliant yellow roses to Ellen, which demonstrates that he sees her as passionate, alluring, and sensual. That Ellen is leading the life he can only imagine heightens his attraction to her. In chapter 13, Wharton writes of Ellen's mysterious faculty of suggesting tragic and moving possibilities outside the daily run of experience. The exciting fact was her having lived in an atmosphere so thick with drama that her own tendency to provoke it had apparently passed unperceived (Wharton, 1920).

Newland thinks that if he can be with Ellen, he is sure to have exciting adventures. In fact, his thinking is borne out, as his pursuit of her throughout the novel provides his most stimulating experiences. By being in Ellen's orbit, Newland is able to have some excitement without having to create an exciting life of his own (Wharton, 1920).

Newland's first major decision in the novel comes when he resolves to leave May and follow Ellen to Europe. He is motivated by his unwillingness to imagine his life without Ellen, especially when he is left with May, who is becoming more and more like her mother (and all the other society women, for that matter) every day. He is captivated by Ellen and completely bored with May (Wharton, 1920).

There are several reasons why the researcher are interested in analyzing the novel *The Age of Innocence*. The first, the novel *The Age of Innocence* is a depiction of the reality of life. Second, this novel related to feeling and responsibility. Third, tell about lifestyle in New York. Last, show morality value.

The first reason is *The Age of Innocence* novel is a novel which tell about realities of life with all kinds of problems. So, the readers can take social reality from the novel.

Second, sometimes in real life anything that we want to get cannot be realized, sometimes we placed on the choices that we did not expect and we are forced to choose. Making it easier for readers to understand and follow the story.

Third, for New York people at that time, living apart can still be received but not with the divorce. The Author makes the plot of the novel simple and easy to understand and make the reader interested to read the novel.

Last, when everyone thought of the views of others, we scare that we will get bad judge from them. It means that New York people have tradition as they pursue goals. A big hope of someone seems more able to employ emotional feedback.

Relating to all the description above, the researcher uses Alfred Adler's individual psychology. Individual psychology is a theory of human behavior emphasizing the drive to overcome feelings of inferiority by compensation and the need to achieve personal goals that have value for society.

Based on the data above, the writer analyzes *The Age of Innocence* novel by using psychological approach to dig up hope entitled **HOPE IN THE AGE OF INNOCENCE NOVEL BY EDITH WHARTON'S (1920): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**. To achieve the purpose of the study, the writer analyzes the novel on its nature of literary, nature of author and nature of society.

## **B. Literature Review**

*The Age of Innocence* Novel (1920) by Edith Wharton is an interesting novel. As far as the writer concerns, the research on *The Age of Innocence* has been conducted by some researchers. The first research is Sarah Emmanuella English Department Faculty Of Letters Maranatha Christian University Bandung (2014) Entitled Analysis Of Social Conflicts In Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* .

The second is previous research related to the study was conducted by Bina Widyawati (English Education Study Program Faculty Of Teacher Training And Education Ahmad Dahlan University Yogyakarta: 2007) in this research paper entitled "The Values Of Love And Duty As Reflected In The Main Character's Life In Edith

Wharthon's *The Age Of Innocence: A Psychological Study*" she research about the reflection of main character as love and duty.

The third is research paper is study conducted by Mustika Salamah (UNNES: 2010) in this research paper entitled "The Influence of Social Norms on Individual Manners in the End Of 19th Century Entitled *The Age Of Innocence* In Edith Whartons Novel" she research about influence of social norms on individual in the end of 19th century.

The fourth of them is Mustika Salamah, a student of Semarang State University. Her research is entitled The Influence of Social norms on Individual Manners in the End of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Entitled *The Age of Innocence* in Edith Wharton Novel.

The fifth study about The Age of Innocence novel is conducted by Bina Widyawati. A student of Ahmad Dahlan University, Yogyakarta with title The Values of Love and Duty as Reflected in the Main Character's life in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence: A Psychological study*.

The sixth research paper is study conducted by Michael Nowlin (Cambridge University Press: 2004) in this research paper entitled "Edith Wharton's Higher Provincialism: French Ways for Americans and the Ends of The Age of Innocence". He research paper about high provincialism in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* Novel.

The seventh research paper is study conducted by J. Lee Thompson (Lamar University Beaumont, Texas: 1998) in this research paper entitled "The End of the Age of Innocence: Edith Wharton and the First World War". He research paper about the end of *The Age of Innocence* Novel.

The eighth research paper is study conducted by Nir Evron (Standford University : 2008) in this research paper entitled "Realism, Irony and Morality in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*". He research paper about realism and morality in Edith Wharton's the Age of Innocence novel.

The ninth research paper is study conducted by Kathy Miller Hadley (Gale reserach, Literature Resource Center: 1994) in this research paper entitled "Ironic

Structure and Untold Stories in *The Age of Innocence*". She research paper about discusses the significance of the structure and perspective.

The tenth research paper is study conducted by Dewi Yosina Batuwael (Universitas Kristen Maranatha: 2005) in this research paper entitled "Portrayal of the Contradictory Women Characters in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*". She research paper about sociological extrinsic approach.

The similarity of these researches is the data source which is *The Age of innocence* Novel by Edith Wharton.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of this research is "How is hope reflected in *The Age of innocence*?"

### **D. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Edith Wharton "*The Age of innocence*" novel on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To reveal hope by means of psychological perspective particularly an Individual Psychological Approach.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing hope which is reflected in *The Age of innocence* novel (1920) based on an individual psychological approach.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The study is expected to give benefits as follow:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The researcher wishes that this study can impart a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, especially the literary study on *The Age of innocence* novel (1920).

## 2. Practical Benefit

The study is wished to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as references by other university students who are interested in literary study on *The Age of innocence* novel (1920) based on psychological approach particularly an individual psychological approach.

## G. Research Method

### 1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using psychoanalytic approach. The step to conduct the research are as follows: 1) Determining the type of the study, 2) Determining the object of the study, 3) Determining data and data source, 4) Determining technique of data collection, and finally 5) Determining technique of data analyze.

### 2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Age of innocence* Novel written by Edith Wharton which is published in 1920. It is analyzed using an individual psychological approach.

### 3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data namely primary and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

#### a. Primary Data

The primary data are the main data obtained from all the words, dialogues, phrases and sentences in the novel. The primary data sources of the study are *The Age of innocence* Novel written by Edith Wharton.



b. Secondary Data

Secondary data are the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the novel. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information related to the novel.

#### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

In conducting the study, the researcher uses the techniques in collecting the data as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.
- c. Underlying the important word, phrases and sentences which are related to the study.
- d. Arranging the data into several part based on its classification.
- e. Selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.
- f. Drawing the conclusion of the analysis that has already one in the former chapter and formulating its pedagogical suggestion.

#### H. Paper Organization

The organization of the study is explained in order the reader can understand the content of the paper easier. The organizations are as follows: Chapter I is introduction, which contains background of the study, literary review, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory, it describes the notion of individual psychological theory, notion of sacrifice, structural element of the novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis, it covers (1) the structural elements of *The Age of Innocence* novel; it consists of narrative elements of the novel such as characteristics and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme, (2) Discussion. Chapter IV is psychological analysis of *The Age of Innocence* novel. The writer will present psychological analysis which relates human facts, collective, subject,

world view, structure of work, dialectical conception between comprehension and explanation, and discussion. Chapter V is the last chapter of this research paper which that consist of conclusion and suggestion.